



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE NO. 4

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2009-2010

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 4

Science and Medical Research

Thursday 17 September 2009

Answers to be lodged by: Tuesday 13 October 2009

Budget Estimates Secretariat
Telephone 9230 3528
Fax 9230 2981
budget.estimateds@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Hearing date	Portfolio	Answer to be lodged by
16 September 2009	Fair Trading, Citizenship	12 October 2009 [21 days]
16 September 2009	Emergency Services, Small Business	12 October 2009 [21 days]
16 September 2009	Planning, Redfern Waterloo	26 October 2009 [35 days]
17 September 2009	Transport, Illawarra	27 October 2009 [35 days]
17 September 2009	Science and Medical Research	13 October 2009 [21 days]
17 September 2009	Health (Cancer)	13 October 2009 [21 days]
17 September 2009	Tourism, Hunter	13 October 2009 [21 days]

Questions relating to the portfolio of Science and Medical Research

17 September 2009, 2.00 pm – 2.50 pm

Questions from Mr Gay

1. In relation to Medical Research:

- a. Can you confirm that investment through the Medical Research Support Program in 2009-10 is \$2.7 million less than it was in 2008-09 as advised in a press release issued by Minister McKay on June 16 this year?
- b. Given one of the goals of the program is to attract more funds from the National Health and Medical Research Council yet this year NSW obtained only 26% of total funds compared to 41% going to Victoria despite having one third of Australia's population – are satisfied you are meeting your stated goals?
- c. Are you aware that respected institutes in this state have warned that the 'viability of the medical research sector in NSW is at stake', due to 'stagnation' of NSW Government funding?
- d. The nine leading Medical Research Institutes pointed out in an October 2008 submission that 'the Medical Research Support Program rate has fallen to around 17 cents per dollar of competitive review grants, which is well below MRI infrastructure costs and accepted benchmarks, because total funding has remained relatively constant while competitive peer-reviewed grants won by NSW MRIs have grown substantially' - What is the current Medical Research Support Program rate per dollar of competitive review grants?
- e. Can you nominate the five goals in the NSW Government 'Statement on Innovation'?
- f. How much money is invested in meeting each of these innovation goals to –
 - i. Improve human capital
 - ii. Upgrade knowledge and information infrastructure
 - iii. Reduce the cost to business of utilising science and technology
 - iv. Encourage capital allocation to invest in innovation, and
 - v. Reduce regulatory barriers to innovative NSW companies.
- g. What are the key performance indicators by which attainment of these goals is measured?
- h. How are they monitored?
- i. What are the outcomes?